

## **Delta Operations for Salmonids and Sturgeon (DOSS) Group**

06/08/10 Conference call 9:00 am

**Objective:** Provide advice to the Water Operations Management Team (WOMT) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on measures to reduce adverse effects from Delta operations of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to salmonids and green sturgeon. DOSS will coordinate the work of other technical teams. DOSS notes and advice can be found at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap/actions.htm>

### **Attendees:**

Mike Ford, Carol Stroble, Andy Chu (DWR); Nick Hindman, Roger Guinee (FWS); Jeff Stuart, Barbara Byrne (NMFS); Josh Israel, Thuy Washburn. John Hannon (USBR); Kari Kyler, Greg Wilson (SWRCB)

**Agenda:** fish monitoring, Delta water operations

### **Fish Monitoring Data:**

*Mill / Deer Creek trap (6/1 – 6/7):*

[as reported from Colleen Harvey Arrison, DFG]

“The Mill Creek trap fished for 6 days this sampling period. The trap catch included 111 YOY Chinook, 2 yearling spring-run Chinook (114 and 115 mm), and 13 steelhead (29-260 mm). The size separation between YOY and yearlings is getting difficult to determine. For this week reporting I used 110 mm as the cut-off, but this is a subjective determination. Flows ranged from 429 to 740 cfs. High flows and turbidity will continue in June due to snowmelt. The Deer Creek trap is not currently fishing due to a landowner concerns with road access.”

*Knights Landing trap (5/28 – 6/7):* In the last 4 days of sampling only 2 fall-run Chinook have been observed. No other species of concern. Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) for fall-run is 0.2513.

*Mossdale Trawl Data:* Data not available for call.

*FWS Sampling data (5/30 - 6/5):*

**Chipps Island Trawl:** 3 days of trawling (10 tows per trawl, 20 minutes each). There were 1,092 juvenile salmon caught of which 132 were fall-run Chinook, 3 were spring-run Chinook, and 957 were ad-clipped hatchery Chinook. No steelhead were caught.

**Sacramento Trawl:** 2 days of trawling (10 tows per trawl, 20 minutes each). There were 5 fall-run Chinook observed. No other species of concern.

**Beach Seines:** 4 days seining with only 10 Chinook caught. 1 fall-run at Elkhorn, 4 fall-run at Garcia Bend, 4 fall-run at Clarksburg, and 1 fall-run at Sandy Beach near Rio Vista.

*Delta Fish Facilities (6/1 – 6/6):* No winter-run or late fall-run Chinook were salvaged this last week. Total non-adipose clipped winter-run loss at both the CVP and SWP is 1,661 juveniles YTD. Spring run Chinook salmon (non-adipose clipped) were salvaged at the federal (weekly

salvage= 55) and state (weekly salvage= 24) facilities for the period of reporting. Total non-adipose clipped spring-run Chinook loss at both facilities is 6,078 juveniles. Steelhead (non-adipose clipped) were salvaged at the federal facility (weekly salvage = 20) and state (weekly salvage = 4). The cumulative total salvaged YTD for non-clipped steelhead is 968.

No green sturgeon have been salvaged at either facility this season (10/01/2009 to present).

**Summary:** Fish monitoring data show that very few salmon and steelhead are emigrating from the Delta and being caught at the fish salvage facilities.

The group briefly discussed the value of the information on dye-marked fish (from the San Joaquin basin) in the salvage records; those dye markings can provide interesting information about the origins of salvaged fish (i.e. hatchery vs wild). Barb will call Tim Heyne, DFG, to connect him with Brent Bridges, USBR; Tim may be interested in the data collected on dye-marked salmon collected at the Tracy Fish Facility. The group was not sure whether or not the state fish facility records dye-marks on their data sheets.

*Sturgeon update:*

During recent sampling on the upper Sacramento River, more green sturgeon eggs were caught in one night than in all of last year's sampling.

**Smelt Working Group (SWG):** The SWG recommends that Old and Middle River (OMR) flows be no more negative than -5,000 cfs. Risk to delta smelt and longfin smelt was considered low. The FWS determination will be reported at WOMT this afternoon.

**Operations: CVP**

Approximate releases and flows:

Keswick = 15,000 cfs currently, ramping down to 11,000 cfs tomorrow

Nimbus = 8,000 cfs

Clear Creek = 600 cfs (pulse flow requirement in NMFS BiOp)

Goodwin = 300 cfs (for Ripon dissolved oxygen)

Jones Pumping Plant: 4 units for a total pumping rate of 3,600 cfs

The Delta Cross Channel (DCC) will be open this weekend.

Recent daily OMR flows (some days had missing data):

Estimated / updated with missing data

6/4: -4,900 cfs

6/5: -4,400 cfs / -5,300 cfs

6/6: -4,400 cfs / -5,900 cfs

Projects will hold to the current level of export pumping. Today's data suggest OMR is trending more positive and is likely to be on target for -5, 000 cfs.

The Sacramento River flow at Freeport is hovering around 25,000 cfs, which could trigger DCC gate closure. Reclamation suggested that with Keswick releases dropping, Freeport flow would likely drop as well.

**SWP:** Approximate releases and flows:

Oroville = 1,000 cfs

The inflow to Clifton Court Forebay is approximately 4,000 cfs.

**Other issues & announcements:**

*San Joaquin River Restoration Program:* The San Joaquin River Restoration Program scheduled releases from Friant Dam are going down to 350 cfs (from 700 – 800 cfs) this week.

*Vernalis Adaptive Management Program (VAMP):* FWS mentioned that discussions continue re: a possible Vernalis Adaptive Management Program (VAMP) extension. The VAMP agreement compensates water districts on San Joaquin tributaries for the water released to meet VAMP flows. The NEPA documentation for VAMP expires in 2010; VAMP extension for 2011 would need new NEPA documentation.

*Six Year Acoustic Tag Study:* Josh Israel, USBR, reported that the first year of the acoustic tag study will be implemented in 2011. There will be a meeting in the next few weeks regarding the study plan. The goal is to have the study plan to DOSS by July or August, and to include it in the annual review of the NMFS RPA in early November.

*OCAP litigation court proceedings:* The June operations plan for the protection of Delta smelt is still under discussion by the parties.

*Annual review of the opinions:* This will be a combined review of the FWS & NMFS BiOps; working groups will be asked for feedback re: discussion items.

*Upcoming DOSS schedule:* DOSS will shift to every-other weekly calls, though that frequency may change as the group sees necessary.

**DOSS Advice for NMFS and WOMT:**

DOSS advises that the projects operate according the NMFS Biological Opinion, except for those actions specifically enjoined by the court.

**Next Conference Call:** June 22, 2010, at 9 am.